

Message Text

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62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 INRE-00 SS-20 PM-07 SPC-03 SY-10

INR-10 L-03 DRC-01 RSC-01 (ISO) W

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R 161845Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4051

C O N F I D E N T I A L REYKJAVIK 1227

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR IC NATO

SUBJECT: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: INCREASED ICELANDIC
EMPLOYMENT

REF: DEFENSE:CNO MSG 041447Z OCT TO CINCLANT INFO COMICEDEFOR

1. BY REF MSG, NAVSTA KEFLAVIK WAS AUTHORIZED HIRE UP TO FIFTY ICELANDIC LOCAL NATIONALS IMMEDIATELY. MSG STATED "THIS AUTHORIZATION IS OVER AND ABOVE ANY OTHER LN HIRING PLANS NOW UNDER CONSIDERATION." BECAUSE US MILITARY PERSONNEL NOW APPROXIMATELY 220 POSITIONS BELOW AUTHORIZED COMPLEMENT OF 3340 WITH APPARENTLY SLOW IF ANY PLANS TO FILL COMPLEMENT, COMICEDEFOR SEES THIS AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO OFFSET HIS MILITARY MANPOWER SHORTAGE BY HIRING ICELANDERS TO PERFORM SOME FUNCTIONS CURRENTLY BEING PERFORMED BY MILITARY MEN. SO AS NOT TO JEOPARDIZE A FUTURE BARGAINING POINT IN IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS, I BELIEVE IT WORTHWHILE FOR DEPT TO ASCERTAIN RATIONALE BEHIND REFTEL. UNTIL RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN MISCONCEPTION IN MINDS OF SOME IDF AND DEFENSE OFFICIALS THAT MAIN AIM OF GOI IS TO INCREASE ICELANDIC EMPLOYMENT RATHER THAN REDUCE US MILITARY PERSONNEL. THIS OF COURSE TOTALLY FALSE. IT WOULD BE PRUDENT TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER REFTEL WAS ORIGINATED DURING PERIOD OF ABOVE MENTIONED MISCONCEPTION. PENDING CLARIFICATION, I HAVE REFUSED TO GIVE COMICEDEFOR CLEARANCE FOR ACTION ON REFTEL WITH EXCEPTION OF USING FIVE OF THE FIFTY SLOTS FOR RE-
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CRUITMENT OF ICELANDIC POLICE TO REPLACE MG AT KEFLAVIK MAIN

GATE NOV 1.

2. CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED IDF COMPLEMENTS ARE 3340 US MILITARY AND 722 ICELANDIC NATIONALS. FOR NEGOTIATING PURPOSES AND FOR DISSEMINATION TO GOI, WE HAVE FROZEN ON BOARD STRENGTH AT THE MARCH 31, 1973 LEVEL WHICH WAS 3318 MILITARY AND 709 ICELANDERS. COMICEDEFOR AND I HAVE AGREED NOT TO DIVULGE TO GBI THAT MILITARY STRENGTH IS NOW DOWN TO APPROXIMATELY 3100 AND ICELANDIC EMPLOYMENT AT 722 CEILING.

3. COMICEDEFOR FEELS THAT UNLESS HE RECEIVES SOME RELIEF ON HIS MILITARY MANPOWER SHORTAGE, HE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO PERFORM HIS FULL RESPONSIBILITIES THIS WINTER. HE FEELS THT IF DEFENSE DEPT WILL NOT FILL HIS MILITARY VACANCIES, HE MUST USE WHAT OTHER MANPOWER FLEXIBILITY HE HAS. THE ONLY POSSIBILITY HE NOW SEES IS SUBSTITUTING ICELANDERS FOR MILITARY PERSONNEL WHICH THIS ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF FIFTY ICELANDIC POSITIONS WOULD GIVE HIM THE OPPORTUNITY TO DO. HE HAS CITED TO ME, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT THE NAVSTA MILITARY EMPLOYMENT IS ONLY 79 PERCENT OF AUTHORIZED NEEDS. I HAVE ADVISED COMICEDEFOR THAT I SYMPATHIZE WITH HIS DELIMMA, BUT FEEL THAT US NEGOTIATOR (AMB PORTER) SHOULD BE AWARE OF REFTEL AND BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO EVALUATE ITS IMPACT VIS-A-VIS IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS.

4. FYI. COMICEDEFOR PLANS TO UTILIZE FIFTY ADDITIONAL ICELANDIC SLOTS AS FOLLOWS:

15 FOR OPERATION OF E-28 RUNWAY BARRIERS FOR F-4 OPERATIONS (COMICEDEFOR HAS LONG STANDING REQUEST AT DEFENSE DEPT FOR THIS, BUT DIFFICULTY APPARENTLY IS THAT NAVY AND AIR FORCE EACH CLAIM IT IS RESPONSIBILITY OF THE OTHER).

5 FOR SUBSTITUTION OF MARINE GUARD AT KEFLAVIK MAIN GATE.

1 GROUND SAFETY OFFICER (NEW JOB).

29 TO SUBSTITUTE ICELANDERS FOR US MILITARY IN ACTIVITIES SUCH AS 4 FOR HEAVY EQUIPMENT SNOW REMOVAL OPERATORS,

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3 FOR CASHIERS AT ENLISTED MEN'S MESS, AND 22 NOT YET IDENTIFIED.

5. I AM IN NO POSITION TO EVALUATE THE MILITARY MANPOWER SHORTAGE ON IDF'S MILITARY RESPONSIBILITIES OR WHETHER IDF CAN FUNCTION ADEQUATELY WITHIN ITS PRESENT CEILINGS. I FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT ACTION AUTHORIZED BY REFTEL SHOULD NOT BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT FULL EVALUATION OF POSSIBLE IMPACT ON BASE

NEGOTIATIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: ARMED FORCES, FORCE & TROOP LEVELS, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973REYKJA01227
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS IRVING
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: REYKJAVIK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731029/aaaaavek.tel
Line Count: 117
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: STADIS
Reference: DEFENSE:CNO MSG 041447Z OCT TO CINCL, ANT INFO COMICEDEFOR
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13-Sep-2001 by martinml>; APPROVED <19 FEB 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IDF RETENTION NEGOTIATIONS: INCREASED ICELANDIC EMPLOYMENT
TAGS: MARR, IC, NATO
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005